1324. [Transferred to the 29th September, 1988].

Manufacture of power equipments

1325. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indigenous power generation equipment manufacturing industry mainly BHEL will suffer in the future since the foreign companies are getting bulk orders for manufacturing of these equipments leaving the indigenous ones with a lot of idle capacity; and

(b) if so, what strategy Government are going to adopt to improve the condition of indigenous power generation manufacturing industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) The extent of capacity utilisation of BHEL for manufacture of power generation equipment is under constant review by the Government. It is the endeavour of the Government to rely primarily on indigenous manufacturers for procurement of power generation equipment.

Seminar on Telecommunication Service—Special Emphasis

1326. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the consensus opinion expresed at the "Seminar on Telcommunication service—special emphasis on maintenance and installation" organised at Calcutta on the 13th December, 1987;

(b) what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what remedial steps were taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The Department is not aware of any such Seminars organised at Calcutta. However, it has been ascertained that this seminar was organised by Institution of Electronic & Telecommunication Engineers.

(b) and (c) On going through the preliminary report, it may be stated that the Department is fully aware of the measures needed for improvement in the Telecommunication services. A mission 'Btter Communication' was launched in January, 1987 under which Action Plans have been drawn for improvement in the telecom service. Some of the remedial steps taken/proposed are:—

(i) Proper training of staff.

(ii) Replace worn-out and unserviceable instruments.

(iii) Replace long loops by dropwire.

(iv) Replace overhead lines with small capacity cables.

(v) Provide cable ducts.

(vi) Introduce computerised subscriber line testing.

(vii) Computerised fault control services.

(viii) Replace old and worn-out electro-mechanical exchanges.

(ix) Computerisation of the Directory Enquiry and trunk manual services, and

(x) Improve billing credibility by installing MLOEs and Automatic Message Accounting Systems.

Post Offices in villages

1327. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of villages in the country which do not

have a post office at the end of December, 1987;

(b) whether such villages would have a post office in the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) The information as on 31-3-1988 is furnished in the annexed statement. (*See* below)

(b) to (d) No, Sir, not all such villages will have a post office by the end of seventh Five Year Plan. There is a phased programme of opening of new post offices in rural areas. The number of new post offices proposed to be opened in the remaining two years of the Seventh Plan (1988-89 and 1989-90) is about 5,000.

Statement

Villages not having post offices as on 31-3-1988

S.No.	Circle	No. of villages not having post offices
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12701
2.	Assam	18903
3.	Bihar	57157
4.	Delhi	99
5.	Gujarat	10383
6.	Haryana	4590
7.	Himachal Pradesh	14472
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	5183
9.	Karnataka	18822
10.	Kerala	
11.	Madhya Pradesh	61847
12.	Maharashtra	29461
13.	North Eastern	10661
14.	Orissa	39550
15.	Punjab	9080
16.	Rajasthan	26137
17.	Tamil Nadu	6246
18.	Uttar Pradesh	96223
19.	West Bengal	31657
	TOTAL :	4,53,172

Maintenance of telecommunications equipments

1328. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that adequate attention is not being paid to the proper installation and maintenance of telecommuications equipments, which is one of the major reasons for the low efficiency of the telecom net work in the country despite its having some of the latest devices;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for poor functioning of the telecommunication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir. Adequate attention is paid for proper installation and maintenance of telecommunication equipment in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Telecommunication services are generally satisfactory in the country.